

GA, a lady by the name of Dr. Betty Siegel announced at the end of that commencement her retirement as president of Kennesaw State University after 25 years of service.

One might think in listening to that, well, that is a nice accomplishment, but is that so significant? I will talk for a minute about how significant this woman's life and her contributions have been.

Twenty-five years ago there were not many women presidents of any colleges or universities in the United States of America. In fact, Betty Siegel became the first president of a public university in the history of the university system of Georgia. She took the leadership of a small, urban campus, nonresidential, known as Kennesaw State College, with students numbering 4,000, handing out a handful of degrees, most all to computer learners.

As Dr. Siegel announced her retirement 2 weeks ago, she leaves a university with 18,000 students, third only to the University of Georgia and Georgia State University in population in our State, granting multiple degrees and a forerunner in our State in nursing, in education, in family business, in leadership, and in ethics.

Betty Siegel graduated from Wake Forest with an undergraduate degree and went to the University of North Carolina for her master's and doctorate from Florida State. She taught, she became a dean, throughout the southeastern United States. But when she was tapped, it was not only the right person for the time, it was the best decision possible. She broke the glass ceiling for women presidents at universities and colleges in Georgia because now we have many. She was the forerunner.

She built an urban university that was nonresidential and commuter into a combination commuter and residential university of renown and respect all over the United States.

While she did it, she did just a few other things. She got appointed to five corporate boards because of her contribution, her intellect, her knowledge, and her breadth and depth. She became president of a Chamber of Commerce. How many times have you heard of a college president or university president going on to be the president of a local community Chamber of Commerce? This happens to be the second largest Chamber of Commerce in the State of Georgia. But that is how remarkable Betty Siegel is.

I also mentioned in my remarks earlier that Kennesaw was the leader in leadership and ethics. They are because Betty Siegel found a way, through corporate and private donations, to endow a chair and build a school committed to leadership in ethics, in business, and in public life.

Through her commitment to understand the strength of small business and the fact that it is the heart of American employment, she founded, in our State, at her university, a division

of family business, second to none, that today is the resource for families who try to make those transitions from one generation to the next, to make the transition from small business to medium-sized business to large business, or to seek the guidance that is so unique for small family businesses. And Kennesaw State University is that institution.

But I want to tell you something about Dr. Betty Siegel.

Retirement is not quite the appropriate announcement because she has never retired from her commitment in her life to young people and to their education, and she will not now. Because when asked, after her announcement—within minutes—well, what are you going to do? She said: I am going to teach. I am going to work with young people. I am going to try to make their lives better.

After making that announcement, she spent the next week overnight in a dorm with students, asking how she could advise the next president to make the services of Kennesaw State University even better for the students who will enter in the fall of 2005 and go on to 2006.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure and it is a privilege to recognize on the Senate floor the contributions of Dr. Betty Siegel to the children of Georgia, her contributions to higher education, the ceiling she broke for women in academics in our State, and, most importantly, all of her continuing capacity to helping and teaching our young people.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST TRAVIS ANDERSON

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise today to take a moment to remember one of our fallen heroes, a young man from my home State and my native San Luis Valley, SPC Travis Anderson.

Specialist Anderson was killed in Iraq on May 13, 2005. He was 28 years old and a native of Hooper, CO, a small town of 123 not much different from where I grew up in the San Luis Valley.

A terrorist car bomb struck his HumVee, killing him and wounding several fellow soldiers in the vehicle with him. All of us were fortunate to be blessed by his life and we are all saddened by his loss. He exemplified courage, discipline and patriotism, some of the finest qualities that we prize in Colorado and across this Nation.

Specialist Anderson—"Loopie" to his family and friends and "Cowboy" to his fellow soldiers in Bravo Company, 3rd Infantry Division—was the kind of man that makes all of Colorado proud.

His family and friends remember that Travis was a rambunctious youngster. He went on to work as a farmer and ranch hand in Montana and Nevada. He worked hard to earn his high school diploma and even defeated the hantavirus, which at one point reduced him to a mere 100 pounds.

But after those horrible hours on 9/11, Specialist Anderson heard a higher

calling, one above his own self interest, and he enlisted in the Army at 26. In the Army, he flourished into a man of discipline and initiative.

He had the admiration and respect of his fellow soldiers and superiors. "Sometimes I wish we had a whole platoon of him," said SSG Jeremy Schultz, who served with Specialist Anderson in Iraq. Don't we all; don't we all.

Specialist Anderson of the Army's 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division was training with the Special Forces when he was killed earlier this month. He was awarded the Bronze Star posthumously. He came from humble beginnings and aspired to quiet greatness with an even greater heart.

President John F. Kennedy once said, "Every area of trouble gives out a ray of hope, and the one unchangeable certainty is that nothing is certain or unchangeable." SPC Travis Anderson exemplified this in his mission of service to his nation. He will be missed by all those around him and he and his family will remain in our prayers. And to his family and friends, I say, on behalf of a grateful nation: thank you for sharing Travis with us.

MEMORIAL DAY 2005

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the significance of Memorial Day and to remember the Americans it commemorates. In just a few days, we will come together as a Nation to pay tribute to the courageous men and women who fought and died for our country. Too often we take for granted the freedoms we, as Americans, enjoy, too often we forget those who gave their lives to secure this liberty.

America has honored its fallen soldiers with a Memorial Day, sometimes called Decoration Day, since the Civil War. Though we are grateful to these heroes each and every day, it was recognized that we should set aside 1 day in particular, the last Monday in May, to be especially mindful of the brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who paid the ultimate price for their fellow citizens.

During a time when we continue to lose more of our friends, family and neighbors in combat overseas, I am especially mindful of the sacrifices made by our men and women in the military. I served in World War II, and I have seen firsthand the bravery and selflessness that is a common thread in our military personnel. Though I was lucky enough to return home, not a day passes when I do not think of my comrades who were not as fortunate, and I am eternally grateful to them.

On this earnest occasion, I would like to draw attention to what we can do for those veteran soldiers still with us so that we do not disrespect the sacrifices made by those we have lost. We must provide full funding for veterans' health care. Every year the President sends forward his budget proposal to